

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SS-15 SP-02 SAJ-01 CU-02 NSC-05

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P 301242Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5153

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, HU

SUBJ: PROSPECTIVE GOH OFFICIAL VISITORS TO U.S.

REF: STATE 20892

1. ON JANUARY 27, SAME DAY THAT AMBASSADOR ESZTERGALYOS MET WITH DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY ARMITAGE IN WASHINGTON, MCAULIFFE WAS MEETING WITH DEPFONMIN NAGY IN BUDAPEST (SEPTELS). AND, BY CHANCE, NAGY ALSO RAISED QUESTION OF VISITS.

2. BASED ON HIS OWN EXPERIENCE IN WASHINGTON, NAGY BELIEVES IT UNDESIRABLE FOR SENIOR HUNGARIAN PUBLIC FIGURE TO UNDERTAKE OFFICIAL TRAVEL IN U.S. AFTER MAY 31 IN ANY NATIONAL ELECTION YEAR. ON OTHER HAND, SINCE GOH WELCOMES THIS AMERICAN INTEREST AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR DIALOGUE AND INCREASED CONTACTS WHICH SPRING FROM SUCH VISITS, HE IS DETERMINED TO MAINTAIN RHYTHM AND BALANCE SO THAT FLOW OF DISTINGUISHED VISITORS IN BOTH DIRECTIONS, WILL CONTINUE UNABATED. HE THEN ASKED MCAULIFFE POINTBLANK WHETHER FORMER SECRETARY OF COMMERCE MORTON'S INVITATION TO DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER SZEKER REMAINS VALID. MCAULIFFE REPLIED THAT SECRETARY MORTON HAD--AS RESULT OF NAGY'S OWN SUGGESTION--EXTENDED OFFICIAL NOT PERSONAL INVITATION TO DEPRIMIN AND THAT, AS SOON AS MUTUALLY CONVENIENT DATE

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WAS DETERMINED, USG WILL HONOR THAT INVITATION. NAGY SAID

HE FELT DEEP PERSONAL INVOLVEMENT BOTH TOWARD SZEKER AND TOWARD USG, THAT HE WANTED TO MAINTAIN GATHERING DIPLOMATIC MOMENTUM TOWARD BETTER UNDERSTANDING AND EVENTUAL NORMALIZATION AND THAT SZEKER FEELS CERTAIN HE CAN FREE HIMSELF FROM OFFICIAL DUTIES IN HUNGARY FOR TRAVEL IN MAY.

3. DEPFONMIN THEN PROPOSED THAT MCAULIFFE QUERY DEPARTMENT ABOUT POSSIBLE MAY DATES AND SUGGESTED ITINERARY. MCAULIFFE SAID IT WOULD BE NORMAL DIPLOMATIC PRACTICE FOR ESZTERGALYOS TO MAKE INITIAL PROBE IN DEPARTMENT AND TO INDICATE SZEKER'S FIELDS OF INTEREST SO THAT WASHINGTON PLANNERS CAN ORGANIZE SUCCESSFUL PROGRAM. NAGY SAID ESZTERGALYOS HESITANT TO DO SO BECAUSE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE NOW HEADED BY SECRETARY RICHARDSON AND ESZTERGALYOS FEARS CONSEQUENCES FOR HIM IF PROBE IS REBUFFED, OR IF PROGRAM FALLS SHORT OF SZEKER'S EXPECTATIONS. MCAULIFFE SCOFFED AT THIS EXPLANATION, SAYING THAT USG ALWAYS HONORS ITS OBLIGATIONS INCLUDING PROTOCOLARY ONES, AND THAT OPERATIONAL PLANNING FOR DEPRIMIN'S VISIT TO U.S. WILL AFFORD ESZTERGALYOS AND HIS STAFF UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET MANY MORE OFFICIAL AND NON-OFFICIAL AMERICANS AND TO CREATE BETTER IMAGE OF MODERN HUNGARY. NAGY SAID SZEKER REPRESENTS GOH IN CEMA; HE DIRECTS HUNGARIAN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE AND HUNGARIAN MINISTRY OF INTERNAL TRADE; DURING HIS EARLIER CAREER HE HAD MUCH EXPERIENCE IN FIELDS OF CHEMISTRY, PETROLEUM, NATURAL GAS, AND FERTILIZER PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION. MCAULIFFE SAID HE WOULD REPORT NAGY'S THINKING TO DEPARTMENT; BUT THAT HE REMAINED CONVINCED THAT HUNGARIAN EMBASSY WASHINGTON SHOULD WORK WITH DEPARTMENT TO FIX DATES AND DEVELOP SUBSTANTIVE AND ADMINISTRATIVE PLANS. HE WOULD THEREFORE RECOMMEND THAT DEPARTMENT AND ESZTERGALYOS WORK MATTERS OUT BETWEEN THEM. AMERICAN EMBASSY BUDAPEST WILL HELP WHENEVER AND HOWEVER IT CAN; BUT ACTION RESPONSIBILITY, IN MCAULIFFE'S VIEW, RESTS IN WASHINGTON.

4. THEN STATE 20892 ARRIVED REPORTING THAT ESZTERGALYOS HAD PROPOSED TO GOH THAT AGRICULTURE MINISTER ROMANY VISIT U.S. BEFORE END OF MAY. AT EMBASSY RECEPTION JANUARY 28 MCAULIFFE SOUGHT NAGY OUT AND ATTEMPTED CLARIFY MATTERS.

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5. DEPFONMIN SAID HE HAD NOT RECEIVED REPORT OF ESZTERGALYOS' CONVERSATION WITH ARMITAGE. HE REAFFIRMED THAT DEPRIMIN SZEKER IS "FIRST GOH CANDIDATE FOR OFFICIAL VISIT TO U.S." AND SAID THAT HUNGARIAN EMBASSY WASHINGTON WOULD SOON BE INFORMED. MCAULIFFE REMARKED THAT LEAD-TIME FOR PROSPECTIVE SZEKER VISIT IS NOT OVERLY LONG. HE INQUIRED ABOUT USE OF WORD "FIRST" AND ADDED THAT HE RECALLED HAVING ONCE HEARD IT SAID THAT IT WOULD NOT BE

PROPER TO HOLD MEETING OF HUNGARIAN CABINET IN WASHINGTON.
NAGY REPLIED THAT HE HAD RECEIVED SAME MESSAGE AND THAT,
ALL THINGS CONSIDERED, DEPPRIMIN SZEKER IS SOLE CABINET
LEVEL HUNGARIAN CANDIDATE FOR VISIT TO U.S. IN 1976.

6. NAGY WENT ON TO SAY THAT 1973 U.S. VISIT BY LATE
DEPPRIMIN VALYI HAD GONE WELL BUT HE EARNESTLY HOPED
SZEKER TRIP WOULD GO EVEN BETTER. VALYI'S TWO AND ONE-HALF
DAYS IN WASHINGTON HAD BEEN FULL AND USEFUL; BUT FOLLOW-ON
UNOFFICIAL PROGRAM WHILE ENJOYABLE HAD BEEN UNEVEN AND
REPETITIVE AND HAD NOT MADE EFFECTIVE USE OF VALYI'S
TIME MAINLY BECAUSE HUNGARIAN EMBASSY WASHINGTON LACKED
NON-OFFICIAL CONTACTS OUTSIDE NATION'S CAPITAL AND DID NOT
DEVELOP SCHEDULE EARLY ENOUGH. HAVING AGAIN SAID HE FEELS
HEAVY RESPONSIBILITY FOR SUCCESS OF SZEKER VISIT AND HAVING
DROPPED BROAD HINT THAT HE MIGHT EVEN ACCOMPANY DEPPRIMIN,
NAGY ASKED FOR HELP FROM EMBASSY, FROM DEPARTMENT, FROM
COMMERCE AND THROUGH THEM FROM AMERICAN PRIVATE FIRMS.
MCAULIFFE ASSURED DEPPRIMIN THAT EMBASSY BUDAPEST WOULD HELP
IN EVERY WAY POSSIBLE BUT AGAIN INSISTED THAT ENTIRE
ACTION RESPONSIBILITY RESTS IN WASHINGTON.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE CONFER WITH AMBASSADOR
ESZTERGALYOS.
MCAULIFFE

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